

**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) Device (1) for cooling sheets and strips during the manufacture thereof, particularly after rolling, the device having a supply line (2) for supplying a cooling medium, particularly water, which is connected to a housing (3), wherein two nozzle rails (4, 5) which are moveable relative to each other are arranged in the housing (3), wherein the nozzle rails (4, 5) can be arranged at a distance (a) from each other and form a rectangular nozzle gap (6) for the cooling medium as a result, wherein at least one element (8) which forms a barrier for the cooling medium is arranged in the housing (3) between the an entry point (7) of the cooling medium into the housing (3) and the nozzle gap (6).
2. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein the element (8) is constructed as a baffle plate which deflects the flow of the cooling medium in the interior of the housing (3).
3. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein the element (8) is constructed as a plane plate extending parallel to the nozzle rails (4, 5).

4. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 3, wherein the length of the element (8) is essentially equal to that of the nozzle rails (4, 5).
5. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein the cooling medium is divided at the entry point (7) into the housing (3) into two symmetrical flows (9', 9'') which are conducted in two ducts (10', 10'') to a nozzle rail (4, 5) each, wherein an element (8', 8'') each is arranged in the ducts (10', 10'') in front of the nozzle rail (4, 5) in the flow direction.
6. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 5, wherein the element (8', 8'') and a side (11', 11'') facing away from the nozzle gap (6) of the nozzle rail (4, 5) form a gap (12', 12'') for the cooling medium which is rectangular in cross-section.
7. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 6, wherein the cooling medium is conducted from the gap (12', 12'') to the nozzle gap (6), wherein the two flows (9', 9'') of the cooling medium are once again reunited at the entry point (13) at the nozzle gap (6).

8. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 5, wherein the ducts (10', 10'') have at least over sections thereof an arch-shaped, particularly circular arch-shaped configuration.
9. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein the cooling medium is divided at the entry point (7) into the housing (3) into two symmetrical flows (9', 9'') which are conducted in two ducts (10', 10'') to the nozzle gap (6), wherein a single element (8) is arranged in such a way that the element reduces the cross-section of both ducts (10', 10'').
10. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 9, wherein the element (8) is constructed as a plate which is arranged in such a way between two housing walls (14', 14'') that two passage gaps (15', 15'') having a defined width (b) are formed.